

CLERK: Read Maresh amendment found on page 153 of the Journal.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: This is a motion to refer, do I understand, to the committee?

CLERK: Yes Mr. President.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: It is a very difficult decision. I was thinking about this one during the debate. The Chair, very frankly, could rule either way on this because of the fact that it is an inconsistent motion. Once you have voted to suspend, Senator Merz could argue that you should take it up immediately. However, I think that I would like to see the vote of the body on this. I'm going to rule that the motion is in order for a vote of the Legislature. There were several speaking to this point of referring it to a committee. So, Senator Merz, I am going to recognize you on the motion. Senator Maresh, pardon me.

SENATOR MARESH: Yes. Mr. Speaker, the reason I made this motion is I feel this is an important issue. It should be covered by the press to hear the farmers of the State of Nebraska, and get the message to Washington. I think if we just passed this nobody would read the resolution when it gets there. If we can have a hearing on this and hear the problems of the farm people, I think it will have some affect back in Washington. But if it just passes in a hurry out here I don't think it will ever have any affect in Washington. I move that it be referred to Agriculture and Environment Committee.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Would those of you who wanted to speak now to the Maresh motion please.... All of you who have your lights on want to speak to the Maresh motion? Senator Keyes. Chair recognizes Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, I will be very short. There will be no rhetoric in this. I simply think that we should not refer this particular one to a committee. As I understand it Secretary of Agriculture, Bergland, will be in Omaha either tomorrow or the next day. The leaders of agriculture across this state are going to be meeting with him. I understand that the Governor of Nebraska is going to be there. Certainly this Legislature should go on record how it feels, whether it's 17 percent, 50 percent, or 100 percent of us feel that agriculture needs the backing of this Legislature. That's all I have to say. I think we should send it in, pass it. Let these people, that are meeting in Omaha with Secretary of Agriculture Bergland, let him know how we feel.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, I am certainly going to support Senator Merz on this. As far as Senator Maresh, LR 146 that I threw in this morning that I've done considerable work with a legislator from South Dakota, I'm going to ask in the morning it be referred to committee, even though it may be a different slant. I think that all Senator Merz is asking for is the Legislature's support for the committee hearing that is coming up this week with the Governor and Agriculture Secretary. With that, I would ask that we vote down the Maresh amend-